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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/734,935

12/12/2003

Michel S. Simpson

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EXAMINER

LEMMA, SAMSON B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2132

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/734,935

Applicant(s)

SIMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Samson B. Lemma

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/24/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2132

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in reply to application filed on December 12, 2003. Claims 1-21 have been examined.

Priority

2. This application does not claim priority. Therefore, the effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims of this application is **12/12/2003**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1-21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Stephen R. Carter** (hereinafter referred as **Carter**)(U.S. Patent No. 5,787,175) (Date of patent 28, 1998)

5. **As per independent claims 1, 11 and 21 Carter discloses a method for controlling access to a document, [Abstract] comprising:**

- **Determining an access right for a user; (Column 12, lines 56-63; column 15, lines 62-67; abstract and column 8, lines 27-29) (Access Control Methods FIGS. 4-9 illustrate one method according to the present invention for controlling collaborative access to the work group document 90. In particular, the method includes computer-implemented steps for collaboratively encrypting the document 90 (FIG. 6) and steps for**

Art Unit: 2132

restricting access to the data portion 94 of the collaboratively encrypted document (FIG. 9)).

- **Building a member definition using the access right and associating the member definition with the user; [Figure 6, ref. Num "118"] ("Build member definition for each group member") and**

- **Linking the member definition to a portion of a document. [Figure 6, ref. Num "120"] ("Link member definition(s) with document.")**

6. As per claims 2, 9-10 and 12-13 Carter discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method, further comprising:

receiving a request from a user to access the document; comparing the request with the access right; and allowing access to the document in accordance with the access right. [Column 15, lines 62-column 16 and figure 2-6 and 9]

7. As per claim 3 Carter discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method, wherein the allowing access allows access only to the portion of the document. [Figure 9, ref. Num "162"]

8. As per claim 4 Carter discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method, further comprising adding a new user to the document.[Figure 7, column 7, lines 3-5] ("adding a new member")

9. As per claim 5 Carter discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method, further comprising removing a member from the document. [Figure 8, column 7, lines 5-7] ("removing a member")

10. As per claims 6 and 15 Carter discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method further comprising: storing the member definition remotely from the document. [column 14, lines 35-

38]

Art Unit: 2132

11. **As per claims 7 and 16 Carter** discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method further comprising: storing the member definition in the document. [Column 14, lines 31-34] ("In one embodiment, linking is accomplished by storing the encrypted data portion 94 and the prefix portion 92 (including one or more member definitions 96) together in a file on a disk, tape, or other conventional storage medium.")

12. **As per claim 8 Carter** discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method further comprising: further comprising: encrypting the document; and linking the member definition with a public key and a private key. [column 11, lines 61- column 12, lines 7]

13. **As per claim 14 Carter** discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method wherein the first member definition contains a digital signature. [Abstract and figure 10, ref. Num "184"]

14. **As per claims 17-20 Carter** discloses a method as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Carter discloses the method wherein the document is tagged document/XML document/text document/binary document. [Column 9, lines 32-61]

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (See PTO-Form 892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samson B Lemma whose telephone number is 571-272-3806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am---4:30 pm).

Art Unit: 2132

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BARRON JR GILBERTO can be reached on 571-272-3799.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-873-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SAMSON LEMMA

S.L.

08/12/2007



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